



# CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
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## News Release

Date: October 25, 2006  
To: Residents of Kukui Gardens & News Media  
From: Rod Tam, Councilmember District VI *RT*  
Re: Condemning the actions of Kukui Gardens Corporation, St. Francis Healthcare Systems, St. Louis School and Chaminade University.

The exposure of the self serving, money hungry vultures advocating the sale of Kukui Gardens Affordable Housing Complex is a must if we are to prevent the Kukui Gardens residents from becoming our latest homeless citizens.

As a strong advocate for our city's affordable rental tenants and one who intends to support the preservation of all of our islands current affordable rental stock, I am openly disclosing at this time the enemies who seek to displace our affordable rental tenants for the sole purpose of rewarding themselves with profits. Those enemies of our affordable rental tenants are:

Kukui Gardens Corporation - The Kukui Gardens Corporation board is comprised of trustees who are representatives of the St. Francis Healthcare System, St. Louis Schools and Chaminade University. Those trustees are advocating the sale of Kukui Gardens for the sole purpose of enriching the coffers of those entities and they do not have the least bit of compassion or concern for the tenants they will soon displace in order to get their

greedy hands on those profits. Leading the anti-affordable rental housing charge on behalf of St. Francis Healthcare Systems are Sister Beatrice Tom and Eugene Tiwanak.

Bishop Clarence Larry Silva - On behalf of Hawaii's Catholic Churches, Bishop Silva declares that he and the Church are sympathetic to the need for affordable rental housing but refuses to prevent the taking of affordable housing by Sister Beatrice Tom and Eugene Tiwanak. Thus one can conclude that the Catholic Church is ignoring their worldwide outcry for taking care of the homeless and less fortunate.

Carmel Partners - A for profit real estate developer who desires to purchase the Kukui Gardens Affordable Housing Rental Complex and demolish the complex for the purpose of constructing luxury condominiums and commercial space. Carmel Partners is a mainland carpetbagger from San Francisco. Hawaii's history is being repeated, remember those missionary carpetbaggers.

On behalf of the Kukui Gardens Affordable Housing Complex, I thank Governor Linda Lingle for her declaration to support the tenants of Kukui Gardens and especially for signing into law Bill 2239, Act 288, which allows the State to condemn Kukui Gardens for the purpose of purchasing it and preserving its affordable rental housing status. Unfortunately, Mr. Ted Liu, Director of the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism has been designated to represent the Kukui Gardens tenants and has been negotiating on their behalf but without involving the Kukui Gardens Residents Association. The tenants are disappointed that they are not a part of the Governor's efforts to save their rental housing. I am requesting that Governor Lingle always include a member of the Kukui Gardens Residents Association in any

deliberation or negotiation on the issue of saving Kukui Gardens. I am also questioning the willingness of the Governor to exercise the authority granted by Act 288, to condemn Kukui Gardens for the purpose of preserving the affordable rental units.

In closing, the Kukui Gardens Residents Association, Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE), and community supporters strongly stand behind the preservation of all 857 affordable rental units at Kukui Gardens in perpetuity. No compromise on this issue will be acceptable regardless if it is presented by the Governor, the Catholic Church, Kukui Gardens Corporation or Carmel Partners.

For months elected officials have publicly announced their support behind the Kukui Gardens residents to preserve their affordable rental housing. Residents are questioning the trust and sincerity of that support and the willingness to follow through.

For further information, contact Councilmember Rod Tam at 216-5454 (cell)